

180142

POLREP

SITE: Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC)
Site ID# 0528

LOCATION; 90 Seahorse Drive, Waukegan, IL.

DATE: 7-21-03

FROM: Ken Theisen, OSC, Region V

TO: R. Worley, Region V Rep, H.Q.
R. Karl, Chief ERB
L. Nachowicz, Chief ERS III
K. Adler, RPM
A. Tenenbaum, DOJ
T. Martin, ORC
J. Maritote, ESS
R. Paulson, OPA
A. Marouf, RRS
E. Rednaur, IEPA
R. Vukovich, City of Waukegan
M. Chezick, DOI

POLREP #: FINAL

AUTHORITY: CERCLA

PROJECT START DATE: 12-10-02

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: 7-11-03

BACKGROUND

The OMC Site is located on Lake Michigan in Waukegan, IL at 90 Seahorse Drive. OMC designed, manufactured and sold outboard marine engines, parts and accessories to a worldwide market. It filed for a Chapter 11 petition for bankruptcy on December 22, 2000 and later converted it to a Chapter 7. Their property consisted of plants #1, #2 and #3. Plants #1 and #3 were sold to Bombardier, a large Toronto based manufacturer. Plant #2 was the subject of this removal action.

A part of the OMC property is an existing NPL site (National Priorities Site) under Superfund. It is composed of 3 containment cells in which thermally treated PCB contaminated sludge dredged from the harbor in the early 90's is stored. Two of these cells are on the plant #2 property while the other is located across Seahorse Drive from plant #2. This work was conducted under a 1988

Consent Decree with the U.S. EPA The Decree also required OMC to provide long term operational and maintenance of the cells.

The Trustee to the bankruptcy court, filed a motion to abandon the plant #2 in November of 2001. The U.S. EPA and the State of Illinois filed a joint objection to the abandonment because of the imminent and substantial endangerment that existed to public health and welfare and to the environment. The Site Discovery Inspection conducted by the EPA in the spring of 2002 confirmed the presence of numerous imminent and substantial environmental and public health threats at the plant. U.S. EPA and U. S. DOJ negotiated a scope of work together with cleanup criteria to be preformed by the Trustee and/or the new owner. This agreement was approved by the court. The cleanup, which addressed approximately 75% of the total work, was done under EPA oversight and was completed on December 10, 2002. On that date, EPA took over building security and utility (electric) payment. The remaining cleanup work, to be completed by the EPA, would commence in spring. This work consisted of the following:

1. Decontamination of various areas of floor, that contained levels of PCB contamination above the OSHA industrial standard. (Approximately 60,000 sq. ft.)
2. Decontamination of the "chip wringer" sump area.
3. Collection of numerous mercury switches.
4. Removal of the "bag house" dust and associated sump.
5. Removal of various oils from the tunnels of the new die cast area.
6. Treatment of contaminated water from these tunnels and video taping the tunnels.
7. Removal of the pcb oil from the 27 transformers at the facility.
8. Sludge removal and decontamination of a pcb tanker at the facility.
9. Removal of a small amount of friable asbestos.
10. Provide a new electric service to the two containment cells located on the property, needed to run the "pump and treat" systems.

On May 12, 2003 the ERRS contractor was mobilized to the site to conduct the removal action. With a crew of eight, the above work was accomplished in 9 weeks, together with the following added threats that were discovered and eliminated.

1. Two 3 lb. cylinders of hydrogen sulfide gas, along with various cylinders of nitrogen, oxygen and acetylene

2. 20 large pcb capacitors and a drum of pcb oil, recovered from the flooded "old die cast" tunnels.
3. 3 roll-off boxes of pcb contaminated sludge recovered from the floor, prior to the decontamination effort.
4. Disposal of hundreds of charged fire extinguishers.

At the written request of the City of Waukegan, one transformer located in the plant was left running. This was done in order to keep power to the "alarm panel" located in the guard house, for the plants #1 and 3, now owned by Bombardier. The City agreed to pay the electric bill and to inspect the transformer, which still contains pcb oil.

The EPA, utilizing highway barriers, barricaded the accessible portion of the plant. Also, new locks were used to secure the various gates and the keys were given to the City. The empty and de-energized transformers are also locked.

Also, EPA conducted a groundwater sampling episode from existing monitor wells around the facility and in fact using a "Geo-probe" took both soil and groundwater samples from locations deemed "high risk" both in and outside of the facility. Several "smoking guns" were believed to have been found.

As of this writing, EPA was still waiting on the result of air samples in the old die cast area, collected to test the ambient air in this area of the facility. It is hoped that the decontamination efforts, plus the sludge removal will show that the NIOSH air exceedences discovered during the site discovery sampling, are now reduced or eliminated.

EPA continues until December 10, 2003 to provide O&M to the three containment cells on the plant #2 property and to the one cell located across Sea Horse Drive. On this date, the Illinois EPA has confirmed in writing of their intent to take over the O&M responsibilities.

Costs to date are in the range of \$530k.